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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/231,415	01/14/1999	DON P. WOLFE	AUTOB.043A	3041
20995	7590	11/30/2005	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP			COLBERT, ELLA	
2040 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
FOURTEENTH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
IRVINE, CA 92614			3624	

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/231,415	WOLFE ET AL	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Ella Colbert	3624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 26 and 100-116 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 26 and 100-116 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 26 and 100-116 are pending. Claim 26 had been amended and claims 100-116 are new claims in this communication filed 09/15/05 entered as Response to Non-Final Office Action and Request for Extension of Time.
2. The 35 USC 112 second paragraph rejection of claim 26 has been overcome by Applicants' amendment to claim 26 and is herein withdrawn.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 26, 100-106, 115, and 116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,758,328) Giovannoli in view of (US 6,041,310) Green et al, hereafter Green.

With respect to claim 26, 115, and 116, Giovannoli teaches, a purchase request management system, comprising: A system database comprising a plurality of purchase requests received from potential buyers (col. 5, line 40-col. 6, line 14); a buyer-dealer association module configured exclusively to assign a purchase request received from a potential buyer to one or more dealers that each have a predefined sales region with which the purchase request is associated (col. 2, lines 52-col. 3, line 21, col. 7, lines 3-34, fig. 1, and fig. 2A).

Giovannoli failed to teach, a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer. Green teaches, a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer (col. 3, lines 34-col. 4, line 10). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer. Green teaches, a dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access the system database over a computer network using a remote terminal and to view and manage only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to display a selected inventory of vehicles from the system database over the network.

With respect to claim 115, Green teaches, a buyer-dealer association module configured to exclusively assign each purchase request received from a potential buyer of a product or service to one or more dealers of the product or service that belong to a predefined subgroup of dealers that sell the product or service (col. 8, line 49-col. 9, line 30).

With respect to claim 116, Green teaches, a buyer-dealer association module configured to exclusively direct each purchase request received from a potential buyer

to one or more dealers that each have a predefined sales region with which the purchase request is associated (col. 10, line 50 –col. 11, line 36).

With respect to claim 100, Giovannoli teaches, The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter information about at least one of the purchase requests and the entered information is stored in the system database (col. 4, lines 4-52).

With respect to claim 101, Giovannoli teaches, The purchase request management system of Claim 100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to assign at least one task related to at least one purchase request to a user associated with the dealer (col. 4, lines 53-63).

With respect to claim 102, Giovannoli teaches, The purchase request management information about assigned tasks is stored in the system database (col. 6, 56-63 and fig. 4).

With respect to claim 103, Giovannoli teaches, The purchase request management system of Claim 100, wherein the dealer access module permits each dealer to enter a status related to at least one purchase request (col. 5, line 52-col. 6, line 14).

With respect to claim 104, Giovannoli teaches, The purchase request management system of Claim 103, wherein information about purchase request status is stored in the system database (col. 5, lines 12-54).

With respect to claim 105, Giovannoli failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a

plurality of product records, each product record corresponding to at least one product sold by at least one of the dealers and comprising at least a product type and an estimated product price. Green teaches, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of product records, each product record corresponding to at least one product sold by at least one of the dealers and comprising at least a product type and an estimated product price (col. 5, lines 27-48, col. 10, line 61-col. 11, line 45, and figure 12A). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the system database further comprise a plurality of product records, each product record corresponding to at least one product sold by at least one of the dealers and comprising at least a product type and an estimated product price and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have a collection of data stored on a computer storage medium that can be used for more than one purpose. For example, the dealers will be able to use the data to determine their inventory and profit margin.

With respect to claim 106, Giovannoli failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 105, wherein the system database is configured to be accessible over a computer network to at least one potential buyer using a remote terminal and to provide product information to the potential buyer. Green teaches, wherein the system database is configured to be accessible over a computer network to at least one potential buyer using a remote terminal and to provide product information to the potential buyer (col. 5, lines 63-65 –network, col. 6, lines 13-15- Laptop (can be remote) and col. 12, lines 1-18). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill

in the art at the time the invention was made to have the system database is configured to be accessible over a computer network to at least one potential buyer using a remote terminal and to provide product information to the potential buyer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have product information available to a buyer in order to match the buyer's specifications to the merchandise in the database.

5. Claims 107-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (US 5,758,328) Giovannoli and (US 6,041,310) Green et al, hereafter Green and in view of (US 5,940,807) Purcell.

With respect to claim 107, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein each predefined sales region comprises a geographic region and each purchase request is associated with at least one of the predefined sales regions based on at least one geographic designation associated with the purchase request. Purcell teaches, wherein each predefined sales region comprises a geographic region and each purchase request is associated with at least one of the predefined sales regions based on at least one geographic designation associated with the purchase request (col. 10, line 57-col. 11, line 8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have each predefined sales region comprise a geographic region and each purchase request is associated with at least one of the predefined sales regions based on at least one geographic designation associated with the purchase request and to modify in

Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have an information management system that operates in a database format in which information pertains to a particular product of service item and is maintained as one of a plurality of records of the database.

With respect to claim 108, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 107, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to only one dealer. Purcell teaches, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to only one dealer (col. 3, lines 50-57 and col. 4, lines 51-64). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to only one dealer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have the seller's inventory information analyzed and assimilated into a buyers listing of products and services available through the information management system to potential buyers.

With respect to claim 109, Giovannoli failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 108, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from contact information of the potential buyer to whom the purchase request corresponds. Green teaches, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from contact information of the potential buyer to whom the purchase request corresponds (col. 2, lines 27-53). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made



to have the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from contact information of the potential buyer to whom the purchase request corresponds and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to capture information about a customer that can later be reused for a variety of purposes.

With respect to claim 110, Giovannoli failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 109, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from the potential buyer's zip code. Green teaches, wherein the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from the potential buyer's zip code (col. 6, lines 5-8). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the geographic designation associated with the purchase request is derived from the potential buyer's zip code and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have customer data that is created and saved that contains the customer's address (an address contains a zipcode) which is basic information for any geographic designation.

With respect to claim 111, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, the purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of exclusive database regions, each exclusive database region being reserved for a single dealer and being configured to store only those purchase requests assigned to the single dealer. Purcell teaches, the purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a

plurality of exclusive database regions, each exclusive database region being reserved for a single dealer and being configured to store only those purchase requests assigned to the single dealer (col. 4, lines 51-64). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the purchase request management system of Claim 26, wherein the system database further comprises a plurality of exclusive database regions, each exclusive database region being reserved for a single dealer and being configured to store only those purchase requests assigned to the single dealer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have an information management system that operates in a database format in which information pertains to a particular product of service item and is maintained as one of a plurality of records of the database.

With respect to claim 112, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 111, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to one or more dealers by storing a copy of the purchase request in the exclusive database region of each assigned dealer. Purcell teaches, the purchase request management system of Claim 111, wherein the buyer-dealer association module is configured to assign each purchase request to one or more dealers by storing a copy of the purchase request in the exclusive database region of each assigned dealer (col. 3, lines 50-57). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the buyer-dealer association module configured to assign each purchase request to one or more dealers by storing a copy of the purchase request in the

exclusive database region of each assigned dealer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have an information management system with the information management system as a computer having information processing and storage capabilities.

With respect to claim 113, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, The purchase request management system of Claim 112, wherein the dealer access module is configured to permit each dealer to access a purchase request substantially immediately upon a copy of the purchase request being stored in the dealer's exclusive database region. Purcell teaches, wherein the dealer access module is configured to permit each dealer to access a purchase request substantially immediately upon a copy of the purchase request being stored in the dealer's exclusive database region (col. 9, lines 36-65). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the dealer access module configured to permit each dealer to access a purchase request substantially immediately upon a copy of the purchase request being stored in the dealer's exclusive database region and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have records with the specifics of an item with drop- down menus which are common in databases

With respect to claim 114, Giovannoli and Green failed to teach, The purchase request management system dealer access module permits each dealer to access only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer by permitting the dealer to access only the exclusive database region reserved for the dealer. Purcell teaches, the purchase request management system dealer access module permits each dealer to access only

those purchase requests assigned to the dealer by permitting the dealer to access only the exclusive database region reserved for the dealer (col. 8, line 66-col. 9, line 22). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the purchase request management system dealer access module permit each dealer to access only those purchase requests assigned to the dealer by permitting the dealer to access only the exclusive database region reserved for the dealer and to modify in Giovannoli because such a modification would allow Giovannoli to have only allow those entities who are approved dealers to have access to an exclusive database within their website (region).

### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shell (US 6,134,533) disclosed purchase requests, a customer and a product.

Krishman et al (US 6,073,124) disclosed an online purchasing application.

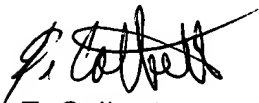
Shoquist et al (US 5,361,199) disclosed a procurement system with request handlers, a request manager, and a request queue.

### ***Inquiries***

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ella Colbert whose telephone number is 571-272-6741. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on 571-272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



E. Colbert  
Primary Examiner  
November 26, 2005